

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for entering information to a utilization device, comprising:
 - (a) providing a directional light beam,
 - (b) providing a receiver which comprises a collection of photodetectors,
 - (c) providing a means for generating a corresponding signal upon incident of said light beam on a said photodetector,
 - (d) providing a means for directing said light beam selectively at said photodetectors to generate said signals in desired sequence,
 - (e) providing a means for processing the signals from said photodetectors and transmit the result to said utilization device,
 whereby desired information can be generated and entered into said utilization device.
2. The method of CLAIM 1 wherein said photodetectors are arranged centrifugally in geometry and provide means for determining the direction and distance of a desired movement of a cursor on a display device.
3. The method of CLAIM 1 wherein a means is provided to achieve the effect of simultaneous validity of the signals from more than one said photodetectors.
4. The method of CLAIM 1 wherein said receiver contains means for enclosing photodetectors and circuitry to prevent contamination from outside the electronic system without blocking said light beam entering the receiving ends of said photodetectors.
5. The method of CLAIM 1 wherein said receiver contains means for filtering light such that said signals from said photodetectors are only generated by said light beam.
6. The method of CLAIM 1 wherein said receiver contains means for providing audio or visual feedback to an operator upon the generation of each signal from said photodetectors.

7. An apparatus for entering information into a utilization device, comprising:

(a) a light source which generates a directional light beam,

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(b) an optical receiver which comprises a collection of photodetectors each of which is associated with a circuit that can generate a signal upon impact of said light beam,

(c) a circuit that collects and processes said signals and transmit the result to said utilization device,

(d) a means for directing said light beam at specific selective photodetectors.

8. The apparatus of CLAIM 7 wherein said photodetectors are configured in a centrifugal geometry to serve as a pointing device which provides means for determining the direction and distance of a desired movement of a cursor on a display device.
9. The apparatus of CLAIM 7 wherein a means is provided for determining the simultaneity of signals generated from more than one said photodetectors.
10. The apparatus of CLAIM 7 wherein said receiver further including a container which can prevent the contamination from outside the system without blocking said light beam.
11. The apparatus of CLAIM 7 wherein said receiver further including light filters so that the signals from said photodetectors be generated only by said light beam.
12. The apparatus of CLAIM 7 wherein said receiver further including means for providing audio or visual feedback to operators upon the generation of a signal from a photodetector.